Confidential until released for publication as under:-

Evening Papers .. 15th May, 1942.

Morning Papers .. 16th May, 1942.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for March Quarter 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were - Brisbane 1011, Toowoomba 1008, Rockhampton 1017, Townsville 1050, Bundaberg 993, Charters Towers 1018, and Warwick 981.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

| City. | March Quarter, 1942 - Percentage Compared with | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Year ended June, 1939. | March Quarter 1941. | December Quarter 1941. |
| Brisbane .. | 17.15 | 6.42 | 2.64 |
| Toowoomba .. | 18.45 | 7.58 | 3.70 |
| Rockhampton .. | 18.12 | 7.39 | 4.20 |
| Townsville .. | 15.13 | 5.95 | 2.44 |
| Bundaberg .. | 18.07 | 7.82 | 3.44 |
| Charters Towers .. | 18.37 | 6.26 | 2.62 |
| Warwick .. | 19.34 | 7.68 | 4.03 |

Clothing and footwear of the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

| City. | Clothing and Footwear. | | Miscellaneous Items. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percentage Increase on Year ended June, 1939. | Percentage Increase on December Quarter, 1941. | Percentage Increase on Year ended June, 1939. | Percentage Increase on December Quarter, 1941. |
| Brisbane .. | 46.32 | 2.28 | 11.46 | 1.63 |
| Toowoomba .. | 46.44 | 3.14 | 11.39 | - 0.27 |
| Rockhampton .. | 48.40 | 4.15 | 13.65 | 3.10 |
| Townsville .. | 47.86 | 2.31 | 11.53 | 1.18 |
| Bundaberg .. | 46.96 | 3.27 | 11.20 | 2.80 |
| Charters Towers .. | 43.29 | 2.27 | 11.07 | 1.46 |
| Warwick .. | 43.06 | 4.11 | 13.17 | 4.71 |

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for March quarter, 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were - Brisbane 925, Toowoomba 909, Rockhampton 907, Townsville 963, Bundaberg 874, Charters Towers 873, and Warwick 849.

From December Quarter 1941 to March Quarter 1942, this index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 3.35, Toowoomba 5.09, Rockhampton 4.73, Townsville 2.77, Bundaberg 3.80, Charters Towers 3.44, and Warwick 3.66.

The Food and Groceries Index rose in all cities by the following percentages - Brisbane 5.33, Toowoomba 7.88, Rockhampton 7.17, Townsville 4.26, Bundaberg 5.17, Charters Towers 4.80, and Warwick 5.32. The increase was mainly due to the rise in the price of potatoes together with smaller increases in butter and eggs.

Rents fell slightly in Rockhampton (0.13%) but showed small rises in the other cities. The percentage increase was - Brisbane 0.12, Toowoomba 0.12, Townsville 0.23, Bundaberg 0.31, Charters Towers 0.16, and Warwick 0.14.

Compared with March Quarter 1941, the combined Food and Rent Index rose by the following percentages - Brisbane 2.55, Toowoomba 4.97, Rockhampton 3.78, Townsville 1.80, Bundaberg 4.05, Charters Towers 3.80, and Warwick 2.78.

The Food and Groceries Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 3.86, Toowoomba 7.63, Rockhampton 5.25, Townsville 2.49, Bundaberg 4.95, Charters Towers 4.16, and Warwick 3.60.

Rents also showed small increases in all cities - Brisbane 0.23%, Toowoomba 0.35%, Rockhampton 0.92%, Townsville 0.58%, Bundaberg 1.87%, Charters Towers 2.89%, and Warwick 0.87%.

# RETAIL PRICES - MARCH QUARTER, 1942.

## All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for March Quarter 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were - Brisbane 1011, Toowoomba 1008, Rockhampton 1017, Townsville 1050, Bundaberg 993, Charters Towers 1018, and Warwick 981.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

| City. | March Quarter, 1942 - Percentage Compared with | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Year ended June, 1939. | March Quarter 1941. | December Quarter 1941. |
| Brisbane .. | 17.15 | 6.42 | 2.64 |
| Toowoomba .. | 18.45 | 7.53 | 3.70 |
| Rockhampton .. | 18.12 | 7.39 | 4.20 |
| Townsville .. | 15.13 | 5.95 | 2.44 |
| Bundaberg .. | 18.07 | 7.82 | 3.44 |
| Charters Towers .. | 18.37 | 6.26 | 2.62 |
| Warwick .. | 19.34 | 7.68 | 4.03 |

Clothing and footwear of the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

| City. | Clothing and Footwear. | | Miscellaneous Items. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percentage Increase on Year ended June, 1939. | Percentage Increase on December Quarter, 1941. | Percentage Increase on Year ended June, 1939. | Percentage Increase on December Quarter, 1941. |
| Brisbane .. | 46.32 | 2.28 | 11.46 | 1.63 |
| Toowoomba .. | 46.44 | 3.14 | 11.39 | - 0.27 |
| Rockhampton .. | 48.40 | 4.15 | 13.65 | 3.10 |
| Townsville .. | 47.86 | 2.31 | 11.53 | 1.18 |
| Bundaberg .. | 46.96 | 3.27 | 11.20 | 2.80 |
| Charters Towers .. | 43.29 | 2.27 | 11.07 | 1.46 |
| Warwick .. | 43.06 | 4.11 | 13.17 | 4.71 |

## Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for March quarter, 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were - Brisbane 925, Toowoomba 909, Rockhampton 907, Townsville 963, Bundaberg 874, Charters Towers 873, and Warwick 849.

From December Quarter 1941 to March Quarter 1942, this index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 3.35, Toowoomba 5.09, Rockhampton 4.73, Townsville 2.77, Bundaberg 3.80, Charters Towers 3.44, and Warwick 3.66.

The Food and Groceries Index rose in all cities by the following percentages - Brisbane 5.33, Toowoomba 7.88, Rockhampton 7.17, Townsville 4.26, Bundaberg 5.17, Charters Towers 4.80, and Warwick 5.32. The increase was mainly due to the rise in the price of potatoes together with smaller increases in butter and eggs.

Rents fell slightly in Rockhampton (0.13%) but showed small rises in the other cities. The percentage increase was - Brisbane 0.12, Toowoomba 0.12, Townsville 0.23, Bundaberg 0.31, Charters Towers 0.16, and Warwick 0.14.

Compared with March Quarter 1941, the combined Food and Rent Index rose by the following percentages - Brisbane 2.55, Toowoomba 4.97, Rockhampton 3.78, Townsville 1.80, Bundaberg 4.05, Charters Towers 3.80, and Warwick 2.78.

The Food and Groceries Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 3.86, Toowoomba 7.63, Rockhampton 5.25, Townsville 2.49, Bundaberg 4.95, Charters Towers 4.16, and Warwick 3.60.

Rents also showed small increases in all cities - Brisbane 0.23%, Toowoomba 0.35%, Rockhampton 0.92%, Townsville 0.58%, Bundaberg 1.87%, Charters Towers 2.89%, and Warwick 0.87%.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in March Quarter 1942 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

| City. | All Items. | Food and Groceries. | Rent (4 and 5 Rooms). | Clothing and Footwear. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Brisbane .. | 1. 0. 0 | 1. 0. 0 | 1. 0. 0 | 1. 0. 0 |
| Toowoomba .. | 19.11 | 19. 6 | 19.11 | 1. 0. 0 |
| Rockhampton .. | 1. 0. 1 | 1. 0. 8 | 17. 9 | 1. 0. 8 |
| Townsville .. | 1. 0. 9 | 1. 1. 3 | 1. 0. 1 | 1. 0. 6 |
| Bundaberg .. | 19. 8 | 1. 1. 0 | 15. 3 | 1. 0. 4 |
| Charters Towers | 1. 0. 2 | 1. 1. 2 | 14.10 | 1. 0. 1 |
| Warwick .. | 19. 5 | 19. 7 | 16. 2 | 1. 0. 1 |

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

| State. | METROPOLITAN. | | | | STATE AVERAGES. c. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Price Index Nos. "C" Series | Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State basic Wage in Brisbane. | Actual Basic Wage. | Margin in Favour of Brisbane | Price Index Nos. "C" Series | Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State basic Wage in Queensland. | State Basic Wage. | Margin in Favour of Q'land. |
| | | £ s. d. | £ s.d. | s. d. | | £ s. d. | £ s.d. | s. d. |
| Queensland | 1011 | 4.11. 0 | 4.11.0a | - | 1013 | 4.11. 8 | 4.11.8 | - |
| N. S. W. | 1070 | 4.16. 4 | 4.13.0a | 3. 4 | 1068 | 4.16. 8 | 4.13.0 | 3. 8 |
| Victoria | 1056 | 4.15. 1 | 4.12.0b | 3. 1 | 1052 | 4.15. 2 | 4.11.7 | 3. 7 |
| South Aust. | 1034 | 4.13. 1 | 4. 7.0a | 6. 1 | 1029 | 4.13. 1 | 4. 7.0 | 6. 1 |
| West. Aust. | 1021 | 4.11.11 | 4.10.5a | 1. 6 | 1034 | 4.13. 7 | 4.11.6 | 2. 1 |
| Tasmania | 1042 | 4.13. 9 | 4. 8.0b | 5. 9 | 1025 | 4.12. 9 | 4. 7.0 | 5. 9 |

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth basic wage, applicable from first pay period of May 1942. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

## RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

Table No. 1. THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

| CITY. | Year Ending Decr. 1928 | Year Ending June 1939. | Year Ending March 1942. | QUARTERS ENDING. March 1941. | June 1941. | Sept. 1941. | Dec. 1941. | March 1942. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brisbane .. | 917 | 863 | 978 | 950 | 954 | 962 | 985 | 1011 |
| Toowoomba .. | 906 | 851 | 969 | 937 | 943 | 952 | 972 | 1008 |
| Rockhampton .. | 903 | 861 | 977 | 947 | 953 | 960 | 976 | 1017 |
| Townsville .. | 1023 | 912 | 1019 | 991 | 995 | 1004 | 1025 | 1050 |
| Bundaberg .. | (b) | 841 | 956 | 921 | 931 | 940 | 960 | 995 |
| Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) | 915 | 864 | 979 | 951 | 955 | 964 | 985 | 1013 |
| Charters Towers | 925 | 860 | 986 | 958 | 965 | 970 | 992 | 1018 |
| Warwick .. | 914 | 822 | 944 | 911 | 923 | 928 | 943 | 981 |

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

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Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

| CITY. | Year Ending Decr. 1928 | Year Ending June 1939. | Year Ending March 1942. | QUARTERS ENDING. March 1941. | June 1941. | Sept. 1941. | Dec. 1941. | March 1942. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brisbane .. | 901 | 852 | 925 | 902 | 882 | 876 | 895 | 925 |
| Toowoomba .. | 833 | 821 | 909 | 866 | 836 | 846 | 865 | 909 |
| Rockhampton .. | 858 | 837 | 907 | 874 | 872 | 853 | 866 | 907 |
| Townsville .. | 1047 | 916 | 963 | 946 | 927 | 921 | 937 | 963 |
| Bundaberg .. | (b) | 799 | 874 | 840 | 829 | 827 | 842 | 874 |
| Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) | 892 | 851 | 923 | 899 | 879 | 874 | 892 | 923 |
| Charters Towers | 942 | 783 | 873 | 841 | 832 | 823 | 844 | 873 |
| Warwick .. | 841 | 768 | 849 | 826 | 816 | 808 | 819 | 849 |

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

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Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

| Commodity & Unit of Quantity. | Year Ending June 1939. | MONTH OF Decr. 1941. | MONTH OF March 1942. | Commodity & Unit of Quantity. | Year Ending June 1939. | MONTH OF Decr. 1941. | MONTH OF March 1942. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | d. | d. | d. | | d. | d. | d. |
| Bread .. 2 lb. | 5.33 | 5.75 | 5.75 | Milk 1 qt. | 6.00 | 6.25 | 6.65 |
| Flour .. 2 lb. | 3.73 | 4.05 | 4.05 | Bacon(Rashers) 1 lb. | 14.81 | 15.86 | 16.23 |
| Tea .. 1 lb. | 26.99 | 41.77 | 39.68 | Beef - Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb. | 8.73 | 11.45 | 11.00 |
| Sugar .. 1 lb. | 3.98 | 3.98 | 3.97 | Beef - Steak Rump .. 1 lb. | 11.34 | 15.30 | 14.90 |
| Jam (Plum) 1½ lb. | 8.08 | 8.97 | 9.07 | Beef - Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb. | 5.48 | 7.45 | 7.35 |
| Raisins .. 1 lb. | 10.57 | 11.64 | 11.73 | Mutton - leg 1 lb. | 7.75 | 7.75 | 8.40 |
| Potatoes .. 7 lb. | 14.88 | 12.77 | 21.86 | Mutton - chops Loin .. 1 lb. | 7.78 | 7.50 | 8.25 |
| Onions .. 1 lb. | 2.93 | 2.95 | 2.86 | Pork - Leg .. 1 lb. | 11.40 | 11.85 | 12.10 |
| Soap .. 1 lb. | 6.20 | 6.24 | 6.24 | | | | |
| Butter .. 1 lb. | 19.00 | 19.00 | 20.00 | | | | |
| Cheese .. 1 lb. | 13.28 | 13.27 | 14.64 | | | | |
| Eggs .. 1 doz. | 19.69 | 15.68 | 22.50 | | | | |